

WHEN IS AN AMERICAN NOT AN AMERICAN

An extraordinary situation regarding citizenship confronts many foreign born citizens, as well as "so-called" citizens of this country, according to Theodore Roosevelt. The matter cropped up in a letter written by P. A. Lelong, Jr., to the Department of State, Washington, in which he set forth that his father was a native of France, and came to New Orleans when he was twenty years old, and lived there about forty years. He died about two years ago, but took out naturalization papers about five years before his death. His son was born in New Orleans in 1880, has never been out of the United States, and has regularly voted as an American citizen, and if war had been declared between France and the United States he declares he would unhesitatingly have fought for this country. Lelong has held court, state and federal positions in Louisiana, and considers himself as much of a citizen as President Wilson. Recently Lelong wanted to visit France on business, and the French consul informed him that if he went to France he could be impressed into the French service or punished for not having reported for military duty, and also for having served in the Louisiana state militia without permission from the French government. Mr. Lelong claims that if the French government had any right to claim him as a citizen under their laws, in times of peace, they should have served notice on him to serve his three years of military service.

Mr. Lelong passed the question of his constitutional privileges as an American citizen up to the experts of the Department of Washington. The gist of the reply was: "Under the provision of the Fourteenth Amendment, all persons born in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States. Sec. 1, Article VII of the French Civil Code, states that the following are Frenchmen: 'Every person born of a Frenchman at home or abroad.' It thus appears that you were born of a dual nationality, and the department cannot therefore give you any assurance that you would not be held liable for the performance of military service in France should you voluntarily place yourself within French jurisdiction."

In commenting on this extraordinary situation, Roosevelt, with his characteristic Americanism, declares that it is the clear duty of the national administration immediately to repudiate the doctrine thus laid down by the Department of State, that there are millions of such citizens in this country born in the United States to which this ruling of "born with dual nationality" would apply. Two or three years ago, Germany made provision for her citizens who became naturalized in this country or elsewhere the means of retaining their German citizenship under a "dual citizenship" claim. Roosevelt holds that it was the business of this government as soon as this statement was made to investigate the facts, to require would-be citizens to repudiate this law, and to notify the German government that we would protest against and refuse to recognize its action and decline to recognize or acquiesce in the principle of "dual citizenship."

To Roosevelt, it seems incredible that the Department of State can promulgate the doctrine of dual nationality, as set forth in the reply to Lelong. He holds that it is dangerously close to treason to the United States. As applications of the doctrine, he points out that if Colonel Goethals went to Holland he would be liable to be drafted into the army; Admiral Osterhaus, of our navy, would be drafted into the German fleet, and on the same argument President Andrew Jackson could have been seized at New Orleans and been made to fight with the British. Roosevelt holds that this country should maintain that the rights of every citizen of this land are as great and as

sacred as those of any other citizen. "The United States cannot, with self-respect, permit its organic and fundamental laws to be overridden by the laws of a foreign country. This theory of a 'dual nationality' is a self-evident absurdity. Mr. Lelong is unquestionably a citizen of this country, and he is entitled to the full protection of the United States, both in and out of any foreign country, free and exempt from any provision of the law of that country as to citizenship. There should not be a moment's delay in asserting this doctrine, not only as regards Mr. Lelong and France, but as regards Germany and the 'dual nationality' she claims. We should assert this doctrine in the face of all the nations of the world, and champion the rights of such citizen against any foreign power claiming any allegiance whatsoever from them."—Excerpt from June Metropolitan.

MERCHANT MARINE OF ICELAND

In a recent interview, W. S. C. Russell, well known as a popular lecturer and writer of Icelandic conditions and author of *Iceland: Horseback Tours in Saga Land*, just published by Richard G. Badger, said:

"In 1913 I addressed the merchants of Reykjavik, Iceland, upon the desirability of obtaining their American supplies directly from the United States in place of through jobbers in Scotland and in Copenhagen. My plan appealed to them and in June, 1914, Mr. Olafur Johnson, a prominent merchant in Reykjavik came to the United States and was in my home for some days. I placed him in communication with the wholesale markets for fish, wool and skins in Philadelphia, New York and Boston—also with the sources of supply for iron, wire, hardware, cereals and other items which Iceland imports. The result was that he made large sales of his own commodities and made heavy purchases for Iceland."

"In August last, the embargo placed upon cereals in Great Britain and in Denmark made it impossible for Iceland to obtain supplies of cereals from Europe. The Althing, (Parliament) then turned to Mr. Johnson for a way out of the dilemma. The outcome was that the Althing chartered a Norwegian vessel, appointed Mr.

Johnson as factor and Mr. Svein Bjornson, a member of the parliament to act with him. During the latter part of September they arrived in New York with a cargo of wool and fish which they disposed of to good advantage and made purchases of cereals to the full capacity of the ship. The venture turned out to the entire satisfaction of the Icelandic government."

"Again, in 1915, the citizens of Iceland, fired with a zeal for controlling their own trade, made a popular subscription for building two steamers, the *Gulfoss* and the *Gothafoss*. The *Gulfoss* has been finished, and is now at a pier in New York harbor taking on a cargo of supplies in exchange for the cargo she brought down from Iceland."

"I take much pleasure in the thought that in a small way I have been instrumental in producing this condition of affairs and that the *Gulfoss*, now in New York, is the first real Icelandic ship to come to our shores since the voyage of *Lief the Lucky* to 'Wineland the Good,' in the year 1001."

Will Beattie, the dean of Kansas commercial travelers, once attended a social gathering among the "400" of Wichita. He found himself with a dashing young society woman from the east, whose idea of social standing was measured by wealth. She was quite taken with Beattie and finally she made bold to ask: "What business are you in, Mr. Beattie?" "I'm a commercial traveler," he replied. The young woman stepped back and said, smilingly, "In Holyoke, Massachusetts, Mr. Beattie, commercial travelers don't go in the best of society." "Neither do they here," said Beattie. —San Francisco Argonaut.

A medium grade apple, no different in any respect from other apples of its kind, stood on a little pedestal in the show window of a local tailor. No other advertisement was used by the tailor, but his scores of patrons were mystified and entirely uninformed as to "Why the apple?" Questions were shot at the tailor, all directed at what on earth the apple signified. Finally the tailor asked with a complacent smile:

"If it hadn't been for an apple where would the clothing business be today?"—Brockton Enterprise.



THE SHADOW DANCE IN "DANCING AROUND" WITH AL JOLSON AT THE SALT LAKE THEATRE, JUNE 10 TO 12